



Position Papers for Conferences

1. What are position papers?

Position papers are documents that state each country's position on the topic that is being discussed at the Model UN simulation. The ideas in these papers guide delegates' speeches and negotiation on the day of the Conference.

2. Why ask delegates to submit position papers?

One of the most important characteristics of a Model UN Conference is that delegates take on the perspective of another country. Regardless of how they might feel about an issue as an individual, delegates must take the position of their country during the simulation.

Position papers ensure that all delegates enter the Conference having thought deeply about their country's perspective. This preparation allows them to effectively collaborate and negotiate in 'real time' on the day of the Conference.

3. How are position papers organized?

Position papers have four main sections:

- **Heading:** At the top of the document is a heading that identifies the country, topic, and committee.
- **Introduction:** In the first section of the position paper, delegates explain why the issue is problem that the committee should address.
- **Country Specifics:** The second section of the position paper is where delegates explain what is happening within the country as it relates to the topic and what the country is doing at an international level. This section is divided into two paragraphs:
 1. **Within the country's borders:** This section includes information about the degree to which the topic is an issue within the country. It might include statistics from an NGO or statements from leaders.
 2. **International action taken by the country:** This might include treaties agreed to (or not), resolutions signed, aid given/received, public statements by state leaders about an issue in another country, etc.
- **Solutions:** This is where delegates propose possible solutions to the global issue. *Note: Delegates should proposed solutions that international in scope. They may affect their country but should also positively benefit other countries as well. (See the [Ideas for Resolution](#) handout for more information).*



4. What is the process that students use to write position papers?

Delegates work in pairs to research the Committee, topic, and the country that they will be representing in order to create a country position. They can use the outline for the position paper to guide their research (see [Position Paper Outline](#) handout for more information).

They write this information into a position paper and submit it to Conference organizers.

5. How should position papers be submitted at a UNAGB Conference?

Students or their advisor should email their position paper to the appropriate Committee. Because of the large volume of position papers submitted, we ask that advisors ensure that delegates use a specific format for submitting position papers. *Please note, that delegates who have not submitted papers will not be allowed to attend the Conference and that delegates who have submitted papers but have not used the correct formatting will not be eligible to win the [Best Position Paper Award](#).*

Both the document title and the email title should be titled:

Committee_Country_Conference_School (eg. UNICEF_Canada_MSMUN_Hogwarts)

Position Papers should be emailed to Committee specific lists (communicated over email by the UNAGB education team).

6. What do Chairs do with them?

Chairs read each position paper and will provide each delegate team feedback using the [UNAGB Conference Rubric](#).

Advisors will get their students' position paper rubrics back during the Faculty Meeting on the Day of the Conference.

7. How do chairs chose the winners Best Position Paper Award?

Using the rubric chairs will decide which delegation has the strongest position paper in each Committee room. Delegates will receive their awards during closing ceremonies.

8. What is the timing for the position paper writing/feedback process?

What happens?	When?
Students are assigned their countries and can begin research.	Within a week of registering for the Conferences.
Position papers submitted.	Approximately a week and a half before the Conference.
Best Position Paper awarded and Position Paper rubrics are given to advisors.	During the Faculty Meeting on the day of the Conference.